

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 are pending in the subject application. Claims 1-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

The Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the subject application and respectfully request reconsideration of the subject application based on the following remarks.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTIONS

The Examiner has rejected claims 1-20 under 35 USC 103(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Number 5,552,859 to Nakagawa, et al. ("Nakagawa" or the "Nakagawa Reference") in view of U.S. Patent Number 6,266,512 to de Koning, et al. ("de Koning" or the "de Koning Reference"). The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections in view of the above amendments and for reasons detailed below.

Claims 1-20

The invention as claimed discloses an image forming apparatus with a controller that elevates/lowers the document tray based on data from sensors on the guide-in roller to supply and convey documents "according to the mount state of the documents." Specification, Abstract; page 21, lines 13-17. More specifically, when a document is mounted on a sheet storing unit, judgment is made as to whether or not the document is of a standard size, on the basis of the position of a regulating unit, and when its is judged that the document is of a standard size, the sheet storing unit is elevated and caused to wait in a state capable of supplying documents.

In claims 1 and 11, the invention as claimed recites a sheet conveying unit that takes out "sheets one by one from a topmost layer" that, further, is "brought into contact with the sheet conveying unit by elevating the sheet storing unit." In contrast, the Nakagawa reference discloses an image forming device that includes a sheet conveying unit that takes out the sheets one by one from a bottommost layer.

See, e.g., Nakagawa, col. 4, line 48 to col. 5, line 6; FIGs. 4-6. Furthermore, Nakagawa teaches elevating and lowering a document tray when conveyance of a document is locked in a document supplying unit of a system that supplies the lowermost sheet first to release the locked state. Additionally, the weight of the sheets in the document feeder and gravity brings them into contact with the sheet conveying unit. Hence, there is no elevating required to convey the sheets as specified in the claim.

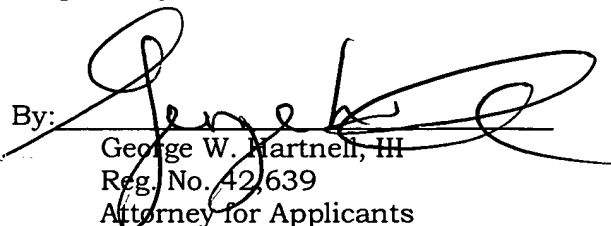
Nor does de Koning make up for the deficiency in the Nakagawa reference. Indeed, de Koning teaches detecting the size of a document by detecting the position of a document guide on the feed tray. De Konig does not teach, mention or suggest a

Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that, claims 1-20 are not made obvious by Nakagawa in view of de Koning and, moreover, satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 100, et seq., especially § 103(a). As such, the Applicants believe that the claims are allowable. Moreover, it is respectfully submitted that the subject application is in condition for allowance. Early and favorable action is requested.

The Applicants believe that no additional fee is required for consideration of the within Response. However, if for any reason the fee paid is inadequate or credit is owed for any excess fee paid, you are hereby authorized and requested to charge Deposit Account No. **04-1105**.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 29, 2005

By: 
George W. Martnell, III
Reg. No. 42,639
Attorney for Applicants

EDWARDS & ANGELL, LLP
P.O. Box 55874
Boston, MA 02205
(617) 517-5523
Customer No. 21874
474045